

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

27 October 1983

## GRENADA/COUP

BROKAW: Good evening. American forces on the island of Grenada are mopping up tonight after a day of active fighting in the capital city. There are still some pockets of resistance, but the last two strongholds of the Grenada army fell this afternoon. And as of tonight, the Pentagon says that eight Americans have been killed, eight are missing, 39 have been wounded thus far. General Hudson Austin, the Marxist extremist who's been running Grenada's ruling military council, is said to be holding hostages on the southern end of the island tonight--the identification and the nationalities of the hostages unknown at this time. The sleepy little Grenadian capital of St. George's was a firing range today as American troops had a shootout with the Grenadian troops who were holed up at their quarters, Port Frederick, and at the prison at Richmond Hill. Jack Reynolds tonight from the Pentagon with details.

REYNOLDS: The U.S. invasion force met more Cubans and more resistance than they'd expected, and they uncovered what was described as a staggering amount of weapons. In this case, near the airport, three warehouses full containing grenade launchers, anti-aircraft weapons, mortars, rifles, and small arms. Some of the cases had Russian markings; some were from Cuba. In another development, Hudson Austin, the leader of the coup that overthrew and later killed Prime Minister Bishop, was reported cornered in the southern part of the island, holding hostages and asking for a boat and safe passage out of Grenada. But by and large, the operation is almost over. This afternoon the last major strong points, the prison at Richmond Hill and nearby Port Frederick, were taken by U.S. troops. There are still reports of scattered fighting in the southern part of the island near Calivigny Point. Fresh Army units are coming in to replace those that took part in the initial assault and subsequent fighting. Some of the wounded from those actions are already back in the United States. One of the Ranger battalions from Ft. Stewart, Ga., is expected to return very shortly. The Pentagon has imposed tight controls on information about the invasion of Grenada. There are no updated casualty figures, very little specific details about any of the actions, no information about additional units after the first assaults were made. It's expected that none of that information will be released until after the operation is over. Jack Reynolds, NBC News, at the Pentagon.

BROKAW: Wounded members of the 82nd Airborne who took part in the invasion returned to Ft. Bragg, N.C., this afternoon, and two of them met with reporters. David Hazinski tonight from Ft. Bragg.

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HAZINSKI: The first group of wounded from Grenada arrived at Ft. Bragg's \*Womack Army Hospital last night--23 soldiers and two Marines. All are now listed in stable condition. This afternoon, two of the wounded soldiers gave the first combatant description of the fighting for the Caribbean island. First Lt. Michael Menu, injured by a grenade, and Sgt. Gerald Bannon, who was shot in the left arm.

HAZINSKI: Did you, uh, encounter, uh, more serious resistance than you had anticipated going in? LT. MICHAEL MENU (Portland, Maine): Yes sir, they were waiting for us, and there was heavy firing and fighting 3-400 meters off the airstrip. A lot of smoke; a lot of action.

HAZINSKI: Both soldiers felt what they saw showed them the invasion was necessary. SGT. GERALD BANNON (Fayetteville, N.C.): I really can't say whether the students were in danger. I could go as far as to say that the resistance we encountered, it, it was definite, a definite hindrance in, in what we were doing down there. MENU: I'll tell you quite frankly and truthfully, the men felt it was absolutely necessary, and there was at no time, any time that we were down there, was there any, any change of mind. The civilians and the soldiers all realized, and everyone should understand this, that this was necessary.

HAZINSKI: David Hazinski, NBC News.

BROKAW: And just to make sure that things stay under control in Grenada, the Army today sent in more reinforcements. Hundreds of troops from the 82nd Airborne Division were dispatched from Ft. Bragg. The Army would not say exactly how many hundreds. The troops included military police units armed with M-16's, night scopes, and gas masks. Infantrymen were seen carrying tube-launched missiles. An Army captain said that the soldiers had been leaving all day long.